GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3846
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016
Straw Burning
Reddy Shri Konda Vishweshwar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government recognize paddy and wheat straw burning as a source of pollution; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check paddy or wheat straw burning in the post-harvest season?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) & (b) The Government is aware of paddy and wheat straw burning as a source of pollution. Government has issued advisory to State/UT Governments in northern India and advised them to curb stubble burning to mitigate air pollution in the region. Besides, directions have also been issued under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 to the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi for abatement of air pollution and improvement of ambient air quality in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR). These include directions for ensuring strict enforcement of ban on burning of agricultural waste and crop residue. Notifications under Section 19 (5) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 have been issued by Government of Punjab, Govt. of Haryana and Government of Rajasthan prohibiting or restricting the open burning of straw. Regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level are conducted by this Ministry with Governments of NCT of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to resolve issues and coordinate actions in this matter.
National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi also has directed Governments of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to prevent stubble burning which is a banned activity.
- - - -